



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: December 3, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required:

TO: Board of Supervisors Jesús Armas, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
FROM: Department Director(s)
Contact Info: Joe Dzvonik, Deputy Director Housing and Community Development (805) 568-3523
SUBJECT: 5-Month Performance Update Concerning the California Encampment Resolution Funding, Round 3 (CERF-3) Strategy

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A) Receive and file this 5-month performance update concerning the California Encampment Resolution Funding, Round 3 (CERF-3) subrecipient agreement with New Beginnings Safe Parking Program Counseling Center (NBCC) and the City of Santa Barbara; and
- B) Determine that the above recommended action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4) as the actions involve the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve a commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

On June 4, 2024, the Board approved two sub-recipient agreements with New Beginnings and the City of Santa Barbara for street outreach and interim and permanent housing for people residing in their vehicles. This report provides preliminary information regarding services and placement outcomes for the 5-month period ending October 31, 2024.

Background:

On August 31, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved an Encampment Resolution Strategy, including an Encampment Response Protocol using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for COVID-19 Recovery in Housing and Homelessness funds to close gaps in housing shelter and services. The Board directed resources for implementation of the strategy, including funding to provide the outreach services and operations of three interim housing projects. To date, implementation of the strategy and protocol has included vehicular/recreational vehicle (RV) encampments.

The California Encampment Resolution Funding (CERF) program was established to fund local proposals that resolve the experience of unsheltered homelessness for people residing in encampments. The approval by the Board for the implementation of the encampment resolution strategy and protocol has been instrumental in securing CERF awards. The County of Santa Barbara has received three awards through the statewide competitive CERF process, totaling \$16.52 million:

- \$2.52 million (CERF-1) to resolve encampments along the transit corridor;
- \$6 million (CERF-2) to resolve encampments in waterways;
- \$8 million (CERF-3) to resolve vehicle encampment areas.

On June 4, 2024, the Board approved two sub-recipient agreements between New Beginnings and the City of Santa Barbara in the amounts of \$6,391,615 and \$1,488,820, respectively, for street outreach and interim and permanent housing for people residing in their vehicles. The total CERF-3 award, \$7,975,380, includes \$94,945 that the County retained to administer the agreements.

The annual census of persons experiencing homelessness, known as the Point-In-Time Count (PIT), shows a rise in persons living in vehicles in recent years from 489 persons in the 2019 PIT to 710 persons in the 2024 PIT. Over 50% (611) of the unsheltered persons counted (1,202) in the 2023 PIT were living in their vehicles. Approximately one-third of vehicle encampments in Santa Barbara County are located in the City of Santa Barbara.

CERF-3 funding bolsters the New Beginnings Safe Parking model. This includes expanding vehicular-specific street outreach teams and housing navigation/retention staff, expanding daytime and overnight Safe Parking program lots, and interim sheltering as needed, and providing safe stable permanent housing through rental assistance for persons moving from their vehicles.

In 2023, County staff worked with service providers to finalize mapping of vehicles and vehicle encampments. Twenty-one (21) encampment areas of vehicle clusters that generally do not move during the day were identified to include in an application for CERF-3. An estimated 300 persons will be served in the 21 encampment areas. Approximately one-third of vehicle encampments in Santa Barbara County are located in the City of Santa Barbara; the City intends to manage a street outreach agreement with New Beginnings’ Safe Parking Program, using funds from the CERF-3 award and leveraging City resources.

Table 1 shows the size and areas of the prioritized vehicle encampments. Table 2 shows the number of existing Safe Parking Lots throughout the County.

Table 1: Size and Area of Prioritized Vehicular Encampments

Area/City	Number of Vehicles	Number of Prioritized Encampment Areas
Santa Barbara	127	6
Santa Maria	53	4
Goleta	50	2

Lompoc	31	3
Unincorporated South County	19	3
Isla Vista	15	2
Carpinteria/Summerland	5	1
Total	300	21

Table 2: Existing Safe Parking Lots by Region

Area/City	# of Lots
Santa Barbara	11
Santa Maria	0
Goleta	5
Lompoc	1
Unincorporated South County	7
Isla Vista	2
Carpinteria/Summerland	1

Performance Measure:

The goals and performance measures presented below were included in the CERF-3 application to the State. The goals, performance measures, and responsibilities a reflect the division of funding between the City of Santa Barbara and County.

New Beginnings Subrecipient Agreement Goals and Performance Measures

Goals

SUBRECIPIENT will provide the following levels of services during the term of the Agreements:

Street Outreach, Interim and Permanent Housing Funds

	Goal
Unduplicated number of homeless persons or persons at imminent or at risk of homelessness to be served	200
Number of unsheltered homeless persons entering shelter (interim housing)	100
Number of homeless persons entering permanent housing (placed into units)	100

Performance Measures

SUBRECIPIENT will meet the following performance measures during the term of the Agreements:

Street Outreach, Interim and Permanent Housing Flexible Funds

	Goal
Percentage of individuals successfully placed in permanent housing	50%
Percentage of adult participants gaining new or increasing cash income at project exit	50%
Percentage of adult participants increasing non-cash benefits at project exit	20%
Percentage of project participants who move into permanent housing remaining housed at 1 year	90%

City of Santa Barbara Subrecipient Agreement for Street Outreach Funds

Goals

SUBRECIPIENT will provide the following levels of services during the term of the Agreements:

Street Outreach & Permanent Housing Flexible Funds

	Goal
Unduplicated number of homeless persons or persons at imminent or at risk of homelessness to be served	100
Number of unsheltered homeless persons entering shelter (interim housing)	50
Number of homeless persons entering permanent housing (placed into units)	50

Performance Measures

SUBRECIPIENT will meet the following performance measures during the term of the Agreements:

Street Outreach & Permanent Housing Flexible Funds

	Goal
Percentage of individuals successfully placed in permanent housing	50%
Percentage of adult participants gaining new or increasing cash income at project exit	50%
Percentage of adult participants increasing non-cash benefits at project exit	20%
Percentage of project participants who move into permanent housing remaining housed at 1 year	90%

Preliminary Performance Outcomes:

Since the program start date, June 1, 2024 – October 31, 2024, 150 individuals have been enrolled representing 101 vehicles. During this period, 25 individuals have entered interim housing shelter and 40 individuals have been placed into housing. Table 3 shows enrollments and placements by area.

In the first five months, New Beginnings has enrolled 50% of those persons and vehicles originally identified in the prioritized encampments. Of the total enrollments, approximately 27% have entered permanent housing and nearly 17% have entered interim housing shelter. While the program is on track to meet the projected housing goal, fewer interim housing placements have been made due to limited parking spaces within the Safe Parking Program for daytime and overnight use for vehicles and RVs. The expansion of Safe Parking lots has been identified as a priority and faces challenges due to various local regulations governing vehicle and RV parking as well as other requirements imposed by lot owners.

New Beginnings provides services including but not limited to rental assistance, housing navigation, connection to benefits and other services to obtain housing but has identified trends and barriers to the long-term success of those individuals and families being placed into housing. New Beginnings reports that 73% of individuals or households make under \$2,000 a month and 31% of adults enrolled in the program have zero income. As some of the persons enrolled are undocumented, this adds to the complexity of services needed to ensure sustained placement of program participants.

Table 3: Enrollment and Placements by Area within County

Area/City	Enrolled	Interim Housing Shelter	Housed
Santa Maria	20	6	7
Goleta	26	1	2
Lompoc	42	4	7
Unincorporated South County	2	0	2
Isla Vista	7	1	2
Carpinteria/Summerland	1	0	0
Total	98	12	20

Table 4: Enrollments and Placements in the City of the Santa Barbara

Area/City	Enrolled	Interim Housing Shelter	Housed
Santa Barbara	52	13	20

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			\$ 7,975,380.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,975,380.00

Narrative: The fiscal chart shows the total award amount of CERF-3 funding between both subrecipient agreements. New Beginnings in the amount of \$6,391,615, the City of Santa Barbara in the amount of \$1,488,820, and \$94,945 for the County to administer the agreements.

Key Contract Risks:

The County assumes responsibility for the administration of CERF in accordance with all State requirements governing their use. In addition, the County would be held liable if it or any provider to which it grants funds is found to be non-compliant with applicable requirements. CERF program guidelines indicate that failure to comply with program requirements may result in the County being required to repay such funds. New Beginnings and the City of Santa Barbara have successfully operated State and/or federally-funded projects in the past with similar regulatory and administrative requirements.

Funds are disbursed under the Subrecipient Agreements on a cost-reimbursement basis. This allows CSD to disburse funds for eligible incurred costs in accordance with the Subrecipient Agreements. The County will only reimburse the Subrecipient for costs that are eligible under the Subrecipient Agreements and documented in a manner that is acceptable to the CSD. Staff will assess the performance of the contracts to determine if the services provided are adequate and as outlined in the Subrecipient Agreements.

Special Instructions:

Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Joseph Dzvonik at jdzvonik@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

Authored by:

Katherine Soto-Vasquez, Encampment Response Coordination Manager, Housing and Community Development Division and Community Services Department